

HOUSE BILL 1029

By Dean

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 4, relative to special license plates.

WHEREAS, the Southern Leopard frog is a mostly aquatic frog that can be found throughout Tennessee, with the exception of the higher elevations in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Leopard frog, striking in appearance, is generally green or light brown with dark brown or black spots that give it its distinctive name; and

WHEREAS, the Southern Leopard frog is often encountered near ponds and lakes, but can also be found on the dissecting tables of eagerly nervous high school biology students; and

WHEREAS, although still not a creature of interest to budding iron chefs, the Southern Leopard frog is found on many southern menus for the cognoscenti who appreciate the delicate flavors of its lower limbs; and

WHEREAS, a voracious hunger propels the Southern Leopard frog to engulf many insects, including hordes of ubiquitous and noisome mosquitoes; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Southern Leopard Frog;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle

and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Southern Leopard Frog new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall contain a likeness of the Southern Leopard Frog, shall include the frog's scientific name ""Lithobates sphenoccephalus" and shall be designed in consultation with Tennessee wildlife resources agency.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates shall be deposited in the wildlife resources fund established pursuant to § 70-1-401, to be used exclusively for management, protection, propagation and conservation of fish and wildlife species, including the Southern Leopard Frog, and the protection and enhancement of such species' habitats.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013, the public welfare requiring it.